Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02 /031 W

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R 271941Z MAR 75 FM AMEMBASSY LONDON TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9726

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJ: CIVAIR - SEABOARD SERVICES

REF: LONDON 718

- 1. SEABOARD'S VP FOR EUROPE (BLAKE) INFORMS US THAT SBW HAS DECIDED TAKE COURT ACTION IN UK TO TRY TO OBTAIN RESTORATION OF CARGO FLEXIBILITY RIGHTS BETWEEN LONDON ON THE ONE HAND AND PARIS, SWISS AND ITALIAN POINTS ON THE OTHER. SBW EXPECTS TO NOTIFY DEPARTMENT OF TRADE SHORTLY AFTER EASTER HOLIDAYS OF ITS INTENTION TO FILE SUIT
- 2. WE ASSUME SBW'S WASHINGTON COUNSEL (FISHER) HAS KEPT DEPARTMENT APPRISED OF SITUATION AND HAS OBTAINED SUPPORT FOR INTENDED LEGAL ACTION. AS A COURTESY, ABOUT MONTH AGO BLAKE SHOWED US DRAFT OF LETTER TO DOT WHICH SOLICITOR PROPOSED TO SEND. WE SUGGESTED SOME CHANGES IN LANGUAGE WHICH APPEARED TO IMPUGN VERACITY OF DOT OFFICIALS AND WHICH INSINUATED (PROBABLY CORRECTLY) THAT RECENT RESTRICTIVE INTERPRETATION OF SBW RIGHTS MOTIVATED PRIMARILY TO PROTECT BRITISH AIRWAYS RATHER THAN CONCERN FOR LEGALITIES. WE THOUGHT LANGUAGE ADDED NOTHING TO SBW'S LEGAL ARGUMENT AND COULD IRRITATE NEEDLESSLY DOT OFFICIALS WHO REGULATE SBW'S OPERATIONS. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER OUR SUGGESTED CHANGES HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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